

Mark S. Randall
295 Seaside Ave
Bridgeport, CT
06605

March 24, 2015

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 1000
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: Testimony of Mark S. Randall for Appointment
to the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council**

Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Senator Fasano, Representative Buck-Taylor and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee:

It is an honor and privilege to testify before the Committee regarding my nomination to the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

By way of background, I am Connecticut born and raised. I was born at John Dempsey Hospital and raised in Wethersfield, just one town south of today's proceedings. I attended Wethersfield High School, and upon graduation attended Trinity College in Hartford. Following graduation, I took a three year hiatus to Vermont and Philadelphia to determine the next steps of my life. It was during this time I decided to return to Connecticut, become an attorney, and put down my own roots.

I started my law school education at Quinnipiac University School of Law in the night program while working full time. After my first year, I transferred to the University of Connecticut School of Law, graduating in 2013. While in law school, I developed a specific interest in administrative law and the legislative process, making sure that all my experiences intertwined with these practice areas. I interned with the Department of Consumer Protection, was a Research Fellow with the Office of Legislative Research, and interned with a lobbying firm.

Furthermore, and specifically applicable to the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council, I participated in a year-long externship with Connecticut Fund for the Environment, where I conducted research and drafted policy proposals regarding Transit Oriented Development.

Following graduation from the University of Connecticut School of Law, I became an associate with Schoonmaker, George & Blomberg in Old Greenwich, where I currently practice.

As long as I can remember, Metro-North has been more than a transportation system; it has been my lifeline to New York City. I have memories of boarding the train with my parents down in New Haven to head into New York City to see a show or visit a museum. Throughout college, Metro-North was the easiest means by which to visit my friends in the city. I even used Metro-North to get back and forth to Philadelphia, utilizing SEPTA in-between.

I presently reside in the Black Rock neighborhood of Bridgeport with my wife and daughter. Today, I use the Metro-North out of the Fairfield Metro location to commute to work, travel for networking events in New Haven, Norwalk, and Stamford, and to get to and from New York for both business and pleasure. Furthermore, for the first year I worked in Greenwich, I was a daily Metro-North commuter, with the only exception being those days that I had to be in court.

A viable transit system is essential to Connecticut's continued success. As a commuter, I understand the necessity for a transit system that is reliable, safe and easy to navigate. As an attorney, I understand that in order to formulate and/or propose any viable solutions to the issues plaguing Metro-North, the Commuter Rail Council must examine the issues confronting Metro-North objectively, taking into account the varying points of view of commuters, occasional consumers, and the Metro-North entity itself.

I believe that my experience as a young professional utilizing Metro-North, in conjunction with my legal background and ability to view issues objectively, will lend a unique perspective to the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to working with all of you, and I gladly welcome any questions from the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MRN', with a stylized, cursive-like flourish.

Mark S. Randall